

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 13 and 18 have been amended. New claim 25 has been added. Support for new claim 25 can be found at FIG. 3. Claims 1-18 and 20-25 are pending and under consideration.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-15, 17 AND 20-24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER JACOBIN (U.S. PATENT 2001/00291 A1) IN VIEW OF NG (U.S. PATENT No. 6,405,175) AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF WALKER (U.S. PATENT NO. 2005/0027601):

At page 4 of the Action, the Examiner admits that neither Jacobin nor Ng disclose “combination information” as recited in 1. However, the Examiner asserts that Walker makes up for this deficiency.

Walker discloses products and processes for vending a plurality of products. Specifically, the products and processes define at least one inventory group which includes at least two products that are available for sale by a vending machine (see Abstract).

Further, Walker discloses the products scored and/or ranked based on their relative value ratings. The value rating calculated by multiplying each product's margin by its actual sales rate as a percentage of its ideal sales rate inventoried products can be sorted in descending order based on their relative value ratings (see paragraphs [0159-0169]). Also, Walker discloses package offers being communicated to a customer, thereby giving a customer the opportunity to accept a package offer (see paragraphs [0186] – [0188]). That is, Walker fails to disclose the package offer being recommended by another individual who has bought the combination of products.

Therefore, Walker fails to disclose consumers being offered combination information based on a purchaser who has registered the combination information.

Thus, neither of the foregoing references, individually or combined, disclose all of the features recited in claim 1 for the reasons mentioned above. Therefore, there is no motivation to combine these references.

Although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited reference. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIM 18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE

OVER NG IN VIEW OF WALKER:

The comments in section I above, may be applied here.

III. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

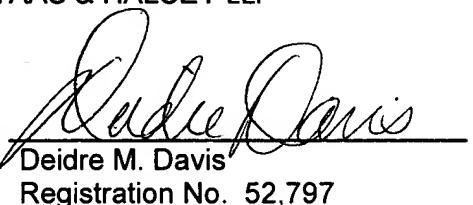
Respectfully submitted,

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July 21, 2005

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